

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (original) A modified, unsubstituted or hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product for clinical use, characterized in that the hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product has a degree of branching in the range from 8 to 20 mol% and a degree of substitution MS of up to 0.3, and in that the unsubstituted starch product has a degree of branching in the range from 11 to 20 mol%.
2. (original) The starch product as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it is hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted and has a degree of substitution MS in the range from 0.05 to 0.3.
3. (original) The starch product as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it has an average molecular weight ( $M_w$ ) in the range from 10 000 to 450 000.
4. (original) The starch product as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that it has an average molecular weight ( $M_w$ ) in the range from 10 000 to 40 000.
5. (original) The starch product as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that it has an average molecular weight ( $M_w$ ) in the range from 40 000 to 450 000.
6. (original) The starch product as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it is hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted and in that the  $C_2/C_6$  ratio is in the range from 4 to 20.
7. (original) The starch product as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the  $C_2/C_6$  ratio is in the range from 5 to 9.
8. (original) The starch product as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it is hydroxyethylated starch.
9. (original) The starch product as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that its reducing ends are inactivated by oxidation or reduction.

10. (original) A dialysis solution comprising water, a modified, unsubstituted or hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product which has a degree of branching in the range from 8 to 20 mol% and, in the case of substitution, has a degree of substitution MS of up to 0.3, and conventional additions.

11. (original) A plasma expander comprising water, a modified, unsubstituted or hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product which has a degree of branching in the range from 8 to 20 mol% and, in the case of substitution, has a degree of substitution MS of up to 0.3, and conventional additions.

12. (currently amended) A method of peritoneal dialysis comprising dialyzing with a dialysis solution comprising ~~The use of~~ a modified, unsubstituted or hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product which has a degree of branching in the range from 8 to 20 mol% and, in the case of substitution, has a degree of substitution MS of up to 0.3, as colloid osmotic agent in dialysis, ~~especially in peritoneal dialysis.~~

13. (currently amended) A method for volume replacement comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a plasma expander comprising ~~The use of~~ a modified, unsubstituted or hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product which has a degree of branching in the range from 8 to 20 mol% and, in the case of substitution, has a degree of substitution MS of up to 0.3, ~~as plasma expander.~~